WENDELL POST

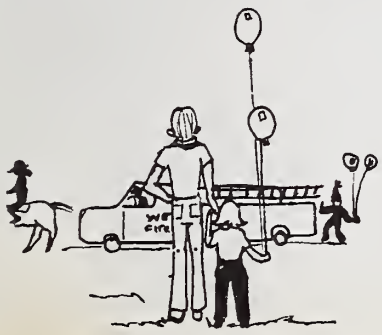
Vol. III No. IV February~March 1980 25¢

Old Home Day Planned

The first meeting to organize an Old Home Day Committee was on January 22. Any interested townspeople were invited. At the meeting we discussed a date to have Old Home Day, possible sponsors, and things we would like to see take place during the event. The second meeting was held on Feb. 7. At this meeting we appointed a treasurer, Faith Sylvia, and Chairpeople, Tom Bardsley & Anne Diemand. We finalized the date - Sat., July 26, 1980, talked further about events we want to see happen, started to make policies we would follow.

Events already planned are a Historical Society Display, parade, arts and crafts booths for the Golden Agers, food and beverage booths, volleyball, talent show, fire truck rides, and even Smokey the Bear will be there! Tentative things we hope will happen are the Outerspace Band, New Games, Contra dance, log splitting contest and much, much more.

We plan to have the meetings every other week and if any one is interested in helping plan the day please call Tom Bardsley at 4-2178 or Anne Diemand at 4-7347 or 4-3806.



Your Freedom ☆ Zoning Part II

Almost everybody would like to safeguard Wendell's rural charm. Yet any proposal to limit or direct development in Wendell will run into opposition.

That's because zoning cuts both ways. No bylaw imaginable can have an effect on future development without also affecting the future options of existing property owners.

For example, a bylaw to require (say) a three-acre minimum lot size may discourage large-scale developers, but it may also distress the owners of a five-acre parcel who wanted to build a home for their daughter or son alongside theirs

It might also annoy a large property-owner who wanted to sell and felt 3-acre zoning was unattractive to developers and therefore lessened the value of his or her holdings.

But the individual cases of harm from any particular proposal may be outweighed by the benefit to the community as a whole. That's the hope and appeal of zoning.

What are the possible formal ways of controlling development in a Town like Wendell?

There are natural-based restrictions like soil type, steepness of slope, flood plains and wetlands, which if recognized in a zoning bylaw reinforce what nature is trying to tell us anyway: "Don't build here!"

Service-based restrictions are possible. These have to do with the Town's ability to maintain roads or offer fire or police protection or sanitary sewer service, and might limit houses (say) to a particular density along existing Town-maintained rights-of-way.

Safety-based restrictions might specify the minimum distance between structures on a lot.

Health-based restrictions are already in effect, and they cover septic systems and water supplies.

Aesthetic restrictions are less common; they can regulate heights of buildings, limit signs... and in some towns go all the way to specifying the length of grass in a year, though this is outside the scope of true development controls.

Then there are the "use" based zoning bylaws in some towns which some people loathe and fear because the measures erect seemingly arbitrary obstacles to "doing what you want" with your own property. A typical use-based zoning bylaw might physically divide a town up among one or two classes of residential (some towns have many more), commerical, industrial, and public

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photo by Don Pugh

M.D.C. Tunnel Vision

If the water needs of metropolitan Boston are one day met by a diversion of the Connecticut River from Northfield to the Quabbin, Wendell will be part of the "big picture". The picture for residents will be a 12 acre pile of rock waste - spoil is the simple and accurate engineering term - about 30 feet deep located not far from Plain Road. This rock pile will not appear over night: it will take about 3½ years of construction to accumulate the 141,000 cubic yards of spoil, Wendell's share of the 9.8 mile tunnel that would be drilled from the pumping station to the reservoir.

Recent news stories in the Recorder and the Springfield Daily News suggest that the diversion is "scuttled", that a "two-pronged" action in the U.S. House of Representatives, an attack on funding plus the addition of crippling amendments, will "kill it off for good".

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Election 1980 In Wendell

The Wendell Post will publish campaign statements for any candidate running in the annual town election. Staff members will contact each candidate before the next issue.

If anyone has a question about this policy they should contact a Post staff member.

To become a candidate you must do the following:

1. Pick up a nomination paper from the Town Clerk's office (or send a representative who is so designated in writing.)
2. Obtain signatures of 28 registered voters (written substantially as registered.)

--Nomination papers should be available near the end of February--

To place an article on the warrant do the following:

1. For the Annual Town Meeting get 10 signatures of registered voters.
2. For a Special Town Meeting signatures of 10% of registured voters are required.
3. 20% of registered voters must sign a petition to call a Special Town Meeting.

Neighborhood Meeting Planned ~ For Zoning Input

The Wendell planning board has begun a renewed enthusiastic effort to present an agreeable comprehensive zoning package for the town. The board feels that zoning is essential to the preservation of the town as a rural community. As a first step, the planning board is turning toward the town's people. Neighborhood meetings will be held to obtain the peoples' opinions in zoning for input to the zoning plan. Chairperson Helen Boland emphasises that zoning must come from the people of Wendell - that everyone's input is needed. At these meetings zoning will be defined and discussed. Participants will be asked their views of the town's character and to express their thoughts on possible patterns of change in Wendell in the years to come. The various means of controlling or implementing these changes through zoning will be discussed. With the aid of Franklin County Planners, Fred Muehl and Richard Goldman, the information gathered from these informal meetings will be used in the formulation of zoning by-laws. After the by-laws are reviewed by legal council for compliance with State and Federal regulations, a public hearing will be held and town's people will be asked to provide input to the proposed plan. The board hopes to bring a final draft of the zoning package to the town at a Special Town Meeting by early spring or summer for approval. If passed by the required two-thirds majority of the town meeting the by-laws will be sent to the State Attorney General for review, and if found to be within State Statute, accepted.

If you would like to host a neighborhood planning meeting or wish to express your views on zoning contact Helen Boland at 544-2207.

ATHOL STEAM BATH
South Athol Road, Athol
New hours: Wed. thru Sat. 4-10 pm
Sunday 8am - noon

Moratorium Day '80

The Wendell Post recieved a letter from the mayor of Middletown, Penna. the scene of the Three Mile Accident last year. Mayor Robert G. Reid is urging citizens throughout New England to participate in "Nuclear Moratorium Day" on Friday, March 28,1980. Mayor Reid said "This year, as we approach the first memorial, I hope you will devote at least part of the day to educating yourselves and others about the nuclear issue. The nuclear issue is not just Middletown problem; its yours too. Nuclear Moratorium Day, 1980, offers each and every one of us the opportunity to exercise our democratic right to free speech. Your participation can prevent the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant from becoming another Three Mile Island."

The Vermont Yankee Decommisioning Alliance is planning a march in Vernon, Vermont on March 30th with activities in Vernon. Preparations for this event will be made on 2-24, 3-2. People in the area to call for more information: Stanley Beretsky 4-2734 David Victor 4-2734.

Recollections Of Ally & Mabel

by Broadus Mitchell

You may pass over the place and see no sign that this was the homesite of three generations of an excellent family. My observant twelve year old grandson tells me that if you put ear to a half-buried doorstone you will hear a trickle of water from the never-failing spring up the hill. That used to be piped into the barn. It is sad that worthwhile people who worked and loved and were born and died here over a stretch of a hundred years passed on and left no memorial of their joys and sorrows.

As I am a comparative newcomer to Wendell (forty years residence, and that mainly in the summers) others in Town know more than I can record of Alvin Fiske and his wife Mabel who were the last of the line. They had no children, though Mrs. Fiske had a great grandson by a previous marriage, a strong teenager who helped Mr. Fiske with his haying. I mourned with the whole neighborhood at the funeral of Mrs. Fiske, conducted in the Locke's Village church which now belongs to Camp Anderson. Alvin Fiske ("Ally" was his familiar name) remained for some years before moving to, I believe, West Northfield where he died. Then house, great barn with attached workroom, and icehouse and storage shed stood empty, temptation to an arsonist who burned all to the ground. The cellarhole was filled in, as also a pit under part of the barn which Ally used for silo. A few passes of a bulldozer and the gentle hillside was returned to its primitive state.

Alvin Fiske was the grandson of the builder of the dam which made the pond that supplied power for a sawmill and shingle factory. The late Glenn Ellis told me that he fell heir to the up-and-down saw salvaged from the works, and doubtless, Jack Ellis treasures it still. Of the generation between, I know nothing. Alvin was a rangy, strong man, something like Lincoln in frame, though not so tall. For years he worked in the woods in winter along with friends who threw up a shack for themselves and a quickie stable for their horses. At planting time, he returned to his farm. Most of the years I knew him, he depended on ten or a dozen milk cows, his acres devoted to corn and hay for their feed. Except for a Delco plant that furnished electricity for his milking machine and a few light bulbs in the barn, he had no power equipment. He kept a pair of large, capable horses. Once he told me, a little wistfully, that a baling machine would simplify his haying, but he did without and manfully forked loads on loads into the cavernous top of his barn, to settle and leave room for more. If I am not mistaken, he had the last working horses in our Town.

When the hurricane of 1938 struck he rushed to the south gable end of the barn to replace the window sash, lest the building be unroofed. It was all he could do to force it into place and secure it before the storm reached full violence. He had a camp that he rented to friends beside his pond, and went there to get a container of kerosene stored in an

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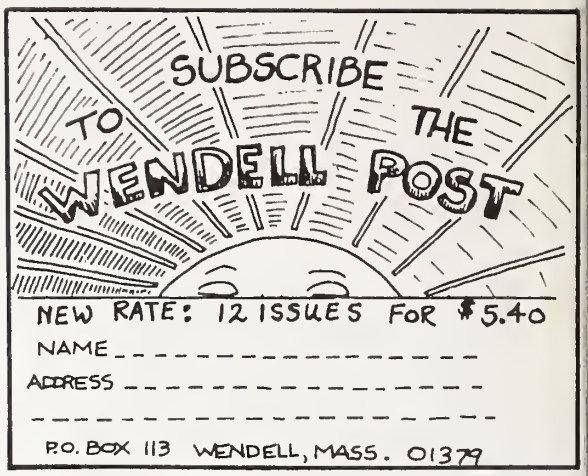

100 Congratulations To Mary Saunders

Friends of Mary Saunders (who spends her summers with Edna Lauro) will be happy to learn that she celebrated her 100th birthday last week and is in good health. Anyone wishing to send her a card may do so in care of the Wendell Post and they will be forwarded to her in New York.

New Format

The Wendell Post has a new look and a new size. The reason originates with a problem common to us all -- inflation.

In order to make the Wendell Post pay for itself we needed to find ways of lowering our printing costs. The result you hold in your hand. Actually, the same amount of type in a different space. Our finacial situation has been aided by a new, consistent, bookeeping policy and a vigourous ad selling campaign.

We welcome reactions, good and bad, to these major changes.

WENDELL POST

Vol. III Issue No.4

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THE WENDELL FREE LIBRARY NOTES

Even though winter may seem close to over, Wendell isn't what you'd call tropical. The Library will attempt to warm up your life in late February with an evening of slides of Latin America. Watch for signs posting the time and place. In late March, our belated "winter" film series will spring to life. Planned are several showings of a two-hour collection of short subjects, ranging from cartoons of favorite children's stories, a ghost story, and "Pool Sharks", W.C. Fields' first film. The collection of short subjects will be shown on different Friday nights, April 18 and May 16. The shows will be at the Town Hall, from 7-9p.m., and are open to the public free of charge.

In January, the trustees purchased many new titles for the library collection, focusing mainly on current best-sellers and popular fiction, including science fiction and some young adult titles. You may find the book you've been anxious to read on the list of some new titles below: The Flounder by Günther Grass; Lauren Bacall's By Myself; The Brethren: Inside the Supreme Court, by Bob Woodward and Scott Armstrong; Look at the Sky, by Eric Sloane; From the Walls In, by Chas. Wing; Good as Gold, By Jos. Heller; Mommie Dearest by Christina Crawford; Sunset's Food Processor Cookbook; Garden Way's Bread Book; The Book of Tempeh; The Rodale Herb Book; Information Please, 1980 Almanac; Anatomy of an Illness, by Norman Cousins; How to Prosper During the Coming Bad Years, by Howard J. Ruff; The Culture of Narcissism, by Christopher Lasch; Edward VII, by Frances Donaldson; Freedom from Backaches, by Lawrence Friedmann, MD, Dream Power, by Dr. Ann Faraday; Jailbird, by Kurt Vonnegut; The Plug-in Drug: T.V., Children, and the Family, by Marie Winn; Chesapeake, by James Michner.

Tina Cohen is currently organizing a Video Project to be done in Town under the auspices of the Library with borrowed video equipment. Interested persons should call 544-7537 for more information.

The trustees wish to remind residents of the Library's interest in acquiring documents of Wendell's past. Especially helpful would be any information as to the existence of a history of Wendell. If one exists, the Library would like to borrow it to make a copy for our archives.

A reminder that we are still trying to make a dent in our list of overdues. There is no charge for returning overdue materials. When the Library is closed, materials can be dropped off in the wooden box on the Library's porch.

Our winter hours, still in effect, are Tuesday, 12-2 and 6-8 P.M., and Wednesday, 12-4 and 6 8 P.M.

Tina Cohen

Outdoors In Wendell

by Myron Becker

Well, I suppose that anyone who reaps the bounties of Mother Nature's outdoors for their recreation does so knowing that it is she who often calls the shots. This year she really dealt us a heavy blow. The repercussions of snowlessness are obviously fatal to the snowmobiler and cross country skier. For the hunter, it seemed like the straw that broke the camel's back. With partridge populations somewhere on the bottom of their 7 year reproductive cycle, an almost total absence of mast (acorns & nuts) on the hardwoods this fall, and therefore equal absence of grey squirrels (one of my favorite quaries), and a deer season during which the woods seemed like a hurricane in a corn flake factory, it was one of the most difficult hunting seasons one could ask for. Without snow, tracking became impossible for man and difficult for the dogs. The Snowshoe, or Varying Hare, put on his white winter coat anyhow, (a change which is triggered by the shortening of the day light hours) which made him stick out like a polar bear on a golf course, to the benefit of his predators. The hare is one of the favorite prey of just about any flesh eating critter in the woods here abouts, including foxes, cats, dogs, owls, and hawks. For those of us who revel in the howls of the hounds as they chase the Varying Hare through the hemlock swamps and laurel thickets, it was a season best forgotten. But for those who simply relish getting outdoors, one season is but a part in the cycle. The snow is finally here, and those into snow machines can join the cross country skiers in the Wendell woods. Please let's remember to respect and be tolerant of one another out there. There is only one outdoors and it is there for all of us.

Soon the sap will run in the sugar maples again, providing a productive excuse to get outside. Because similar weather conditions have not existed in modern New England history, it is still too early to tell what the effect of the lack of snow will have on this product.

Just as sugaring season is ending the fishing season will be starting. Actually there are no legal seasonal limitation on fishing in Mass., but in April when the waters of our streams and lakes start to warm up, the fish become more active and therefore more catchable. Trout start active feeding when water temps climb to 50°F.

Speaking of trout, the Millers River, which was once one of the finest trout streams in the state, and still has that potential, has made some drastic moves towards recovery. Being one of the first rivers in the state to get all of its sewage treatment plants as well as commercial polution control systems on line and functioning, the change has been readily noticable. Even during the driest part of the summer of '79 the water never seemed off-color or odourous. A more accurate sign of water purity is the river's capability of supporting life forms such as aquatic insects of the mayfly and caddis fly genera. This summer I did some research right at the Depot section of the river, which indeed gave evidence to the presence of these insects. Rumors concerning the state's plans to restock the river with trout are unfortunately not yet true. The Mass. Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife, in their characteristically careful manner, have decided to wait one more season to get data on pertinent details such as disolved oxygen content, heavy metal solubles, and water temperatures before they actually stock. Well maybe next year we'll be able to brag about our river as the best in the state. Visiting fishermen do bring in revenue.

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Belchertown And Radioative Materials

Belchertown-

A group of Belchertown citizens are working to establish a bylaw regulating radioactive materials.

Bill Gibson, of Belchertown Citizens for Safe Energy pointed to the Wendell bylaw passed in 1975 as an example of such a bylaw.

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Chimney Fires

by Ann Diemand

Wendell fire-fighters have responded to 5 chimney fires in town since Dec.20. This is a 60% increase over the same time period from last year.

Here are some tips to the prevention of chimney fires and what to do in case of one.

1.) Safe installation of your stove and stovepipe-call your building inspector for information and inspection.

2.) Keep your chimney clean. Either do it yourself or call your local chimney sweep.

3.) Periodically take your stovepipe apart and clean it. (Do this only when your fire in stove is out.)

Since creosote build-up cannot be prevented, it must be cleaned out periodically. To tell when it's time to do so, tap the stove pipe. It should have a sharp metallic sound, indicating a relatively clean pipe. A dull, thuddy sound indicates the time for cleaning is now.

Another thing that I do, and I've heard other townspeople do is to once or twice a day open up the stove's dampers and let it burn hot for half an hour at a time. I do this every day and as yet I've had no chimney fires of my own.

In case of a chimney fire, call the Fire Department immediately, then open the dampers on the stove as this will dissipate the heat and also burn the creosote up faster.

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Don Stone 544-3594

Ally & Mabel from Page 2

outhouse. As he approached, the fury of the gale lifted the little building and sent it tumbling end over end in his direction. "I've been chased by a lot of things," he remarked, "but never before by a privy!"

Alvin Fiske was always the helpful neighbor; once I was walking nearby with a cocker spaniel when she tangled with a porcupine and got a muzzlefull of quills. He produced a three-tined pitchfork which, thrust over her neck, held her firmly to the ground while I pulled out the quills by an operation most painful to her.

The Fiskes, before my time, were active in the political life of Wendell. I never got the straight of the contests between factions, though I hope that someone better versed will puzzle out the history and record it before knowledge of a long and lively local struggle is lost forever.

II

Mabel Fiske was an understanding elder woman. Though she seldom left her own house, she was known to everyone in Town. She may have been a native of New Hampshire; in any event, she lived in Antrim before her marriage to Alvin Fiske. She had kept store in a room attached to the back of the house, and, equally important, had been postmistress of Locke's Village before that small community lost its identity. She knew all of the farm wife's arts. She could wash and dry a cotton-filled quilt and bring it out fluffy, no lumps. She had the touch for growing flowers, her lily bulbs produced the most blossoms, her passion-flower was spectacular.

When old - eighty or more, I should think, she had a fall at her own doorstone and broke her hip. With no complaints, she rapidly recovered in the hospital in Greenfield and, though confined to a wheelchair for a spell, she did all of her usual household tasks.

Once a year, the field below and back of the Fiske house was a scene that drew participants from a distance. I was never in Wendell to witness the turkey shoot, with booths set up to sell baked goods and drinkables, the latter not alcoholic, I venture, as I never saw liquor in the Fiske house. Were turkeys shot? Older Wendellites than I must say, but in any event, there were prizes, whether for lucky chance or display of skill. Alvin Fiske was a notable hunter, a principal in the sportsmen's club that would post your property to keep off less responsible pursuers of rabbits that lived under the brushpiles. Also Alvin, with a light in his boat, fished on summer nights on his pond, though he must have endured many mosquito bites for every bite of a bullhead.

A hundred years of toil on those acres in all weathers, storm and shine, are now erased, hardly so much as a memory. Sickness and health, birth and death vanished; and nothing left at the scene but thinning timothy and here and there the purple flowers of Alfalfa.

DIEMAND EGG FARM

544-3806

Zoning from Page 1

zones. Less intense use might be permitted in a particular zone (say a residence in a commercial or industrial zone), but more intense uses would not be permitted (e.g., a factory in a commercial or residential zone).

In some towns with this type of zoning, a person must obtain a special exception to work out of his or her own home.

One less traditional zoning concept championed by Planning Board Member Robert Hogerheide could be called impact zoning. Under this concept, anything goes as long as it doesn't interfere with another property. "A cement plant," said Hogerheide, purposely choosing a notoriously obnoxious industry, "could set up on a piece of property as long as the noise traffic and dust wouldn't affect the neighbors and it didn't dominate the landscape visually." He implied that the plant would have to be set in the middle of a very large tract of land to meet those tests - "But why not if it didn't have an impact on the neighbors?"

Many of the development controls mentioned previously in this article are best described by means of a map... one that shows where the slopes are too steep or the soil too dense for septic systems, or the flooding too frequent for construction. Under use-type zoning, the map might show which areas were suitable for higher densities of residential development, which for lower, and which - if any - for industry. Wetlands come under the state wetlands control legislation, and these mapped areas are incidentally already under the jurisdiction of the Wendell Conservation Commission.

Informal ways of controlling development exist strongly in a small Town like Wendell, and they take the form of neighborhood pressure, which in some cases can be quite effective.

The roads and bridges of Wendell are a seldom recognized, but powerful tool of informal development control. Stretches of dirt road on the east and west accesses into Town are an inconvenience to Wendell drivers, but a major reason that more commuters from Orange, Athol, Greenfield and Millers Falls haven't settled here. Everytime the Town meeting takes a vote on road improvements, it is not only voting on convenience for Wendell residents, but for drivers in general, and thus indirectly on the Town's residential, commercial and industrial development.

The two major bridges over the Miller's River won't support heavy trucks, a fact that, for better or worse, has doubtless discouraged a few businesses which would otherwise have been attracted by the occasional good land buy found here.

Finally, in this Town's rapidly fluctuating spending program, scant long-range planning and dramatic tax leaps, Wendell residents have discovered the sharpest two-edged sword of all in the development control arsenal. With this weapon Wendell voters keep themselves off guard even as they keep business leaders and choosy home buyers steering a wide berth around Wendell.

It is to give some direction and steam to Wendell's planning process that Helen Boland, the recently elected chairwoman of the Planning Board, has arranged a series of meetings around Town under the loose heading of zoning. Two meetings held so far have shown the subject to be "not as touchy as I had thought," according to Mrs. Boland.

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Zoning from Page 4

Other meetings will be scheduled at townspeople's homes, and as many people as possible are invited by Mrs. Boland and the other members of the Planning Board to share their opinions as these meetings, which will be announced publically.

At the meetings, Mrs. Boland expresses her view that some kind of development controls may be necessary. "We're trying to break the ice, get people thinking about it," she said. Participants in the meeting can write down their concerns and opinions anonymously on cards if they choose. So far, participants have suggested three-acre minimum lot size, protection of agricultural land, discouragement of mobile homes, and encouragement of industry, "the bigger the better."

County Planner Fred Muehl has reportedly offered to help draft any bylaws that may come out of the citizen participation process and the deliberations of the Planning Board, but Mrs. Boland said she doubts anything will be ready by this May's Annual Town Meeting. Her board represents a wide cross-section of opinion, she said, and has a long way to go before reaching consensus or coming up with recommendations.

"Maybe there'll be something for discussion at the regular Town Meeting," she speculated, "and we'll be able to clean up loose ends at a Special Town Meeting."

by Jonathan von Ranson

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Restaraunt Review

with Myron Becker

Guess Who's Rt. 202 S. Athol
Tel. 544-8582

From the wooden sign on the wall which proclaims "There Are No Rules" to the sometimes outrageous patter and commentary of the 6'6" tall, dark and handsome owner-chef Mike Hill, as he saunters around the dining room, informality, good food, and a sense of humor are a theme at this fine and unpretentious neighborhood eatery.

Located in what used to be Poor Bert's, Guess Who's is within a 10-20 minute drive from anywhere in Wendell, and offers both lunches and dinners as well as night-time entertainment and drinks.

The lunch menu specializes in delicious sandwiches of hearty proportions, and rich home-made soups. We sampled the "Watz Yer Beef", which was a sub roll stuffed with at least a half pound of tender steak and garnished with a heap of sauteed onions, mushrooms, and peppers ($2 50) and "Paddy's Pleasure" ($2.25). a Reubin by any other name and classically prepared. Both left us well sated. Good freshly made batter fried onion rings (95¢), sauteed mushrooms (65¢) and steak fries (50¢) are offered if you can find room for 'em. One may easily leave a lunch at Guess Who's well nourished for less than $4.00, including coffee and tip.

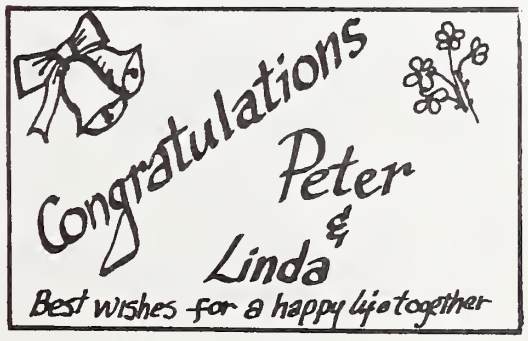
For dinner an extensively varied menu features an array of sauteed meats and seafoods in wine sauces ($4.25 to $5.95) as well as a uniquely mild lasagne ($3.50) and sensitively fried clams ($4.25), scallops ($4.95) and shrimp ($5.95), which always seem fresh and not over-fried or breaded. All in all there are 35 entres offered from $3.50 to $6.95, 5 appetizers and many homemade desserts, which are posted every day. A salad bar is under construction and should be part of the dinner by the time you read this. It is obvious to us that Mike is very choosey about the quality of his ingredients.

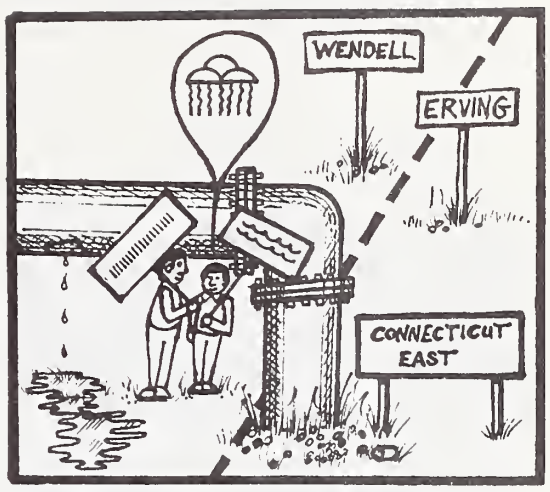
The service and ambience are what one would expect of this genre of restaurant; friendly, neighborly, cooperative and generally down-home. On the few occasions when some item was unsatisfactory, it was cheerfully replaced and feedback communicated to the chef.

Our only complaint has been of infrequent inconsistancy of food and service quality, notably when Mike Hill was absent.

Recently Guess Who's has been featuring musical entertainment on Friday and Saturday evenings with an emphasis on country, bluegrass, and folk rock. The drinks are of generous proportions and are economically priced.

Guess Who's is open every day of the week from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. The lounge is open to 12:00 or 1:00 on weekends.





M.D.C. from Page 1

Wendell, however, may one day get its rock pile. The reality is that 2½ million people depend upon the Metropolitan District Commission for water. Right now, they are using at least 17 million gallons per day in excess of the safe yield of the Quabbin which is estimated to be 300 million gpd. One 1973 study study executed for the MDC estimated that usage by present communities would increase to 440 mgpd. by 1990. The MDC is mandated to serve communities within 15 miles of the State House and may treat as optional customers those within 15 miles. At the moment, about 500,000 people want very much to become new members of the MDC. Experts, especially in Western Massachusetts and non-experts alike, are asking "What are the limits of water demand?"

The MDC for years has functioned pretty much as a wholesaler of water, that is, making water available upon demand. Until recently, water has been regarded as a limitless resource. Last year, the town of Bedford purchased an emergency 500,000 gpd. from the MDC when its wells were shut down because of contamination. Bedford is one of about 24 communities with a partially polluted water supply; most of them in Eastern Massachusetts. Representative Bill Benson is opposed to interbasin water transfers such as the Northfield Project. "But", he says, "people have to have water; if there's no other way, what are you going to do?"

An Environmental Impact Report is being prepared by consultants representing MDC and the Executive office of Environmental Affairs. Phase I of the EIR consists of a review of data and of the several alternatives to the skimming of the Connecticut. Desalinization, for example, is an approach which will be reviewed and probably dismissed because of the energy costs. Interbasin transfers from the Merrimack and the Sudbury will likely be resisted by residents in these watersheds for the same reasons which people of the Connecticut Valley are voicing: future needs and preservation of the riverine systems.

Three promising approaches remain which do not rely upon massive

Cont. To Page 8

Hawley Pharmacy
Millers Falls 413-659-3227
Presciptions filled ~ medical supplies
cards ~ gifts ~ Sundry items
S+H Green Stamps

Posting Place

Town Party

Here it is folks, the social event of the winter, a chance to get out, kick up your heels and reaquaint ourselves with each other, Saturday, March 15th at 8:00 at the Wendell Town Hall. The Wendell Post and the Wendell Rangers will be the hosts at this gala party. Entertainment will be provided by Tom and Shane, Blues Boy Perry Howarth, and the Wendell Rangers, with the cooperation of Klondike Sound Co., and the whole darn town. See you there!

Girl Scout Cookies

The Junior Girl Scouts of Wendell are now taking orders for Girl Scout Cookies. Contact your favorite Girl Scout, or call troop leader Lois Carey, (4-6692) sometime between February 16 through March 2.

Wendell Coon Club Raffle

The Wendell Coon Club is selling raffle tickets. First and second prize is a cord of wood (or $50.00 cash if the wood is not desired). Third prize is a fruit basket. Tickets are three chances for a dollar and are available at the Wendell Country Store or through Tom Bardsley, Dan Bacigalupo and other club members.

Social Notes

Wendell Golden Agers

February meetings of the Wendell Golden Agers included a visit from Anney Hartjens, Stanley Home Products representative and guest speakers from the Wendell Planning Board.

We also celebrated with Harry Thayer his ninetieth birthday at a party in the nursing home.

Our next regular meeting will be a St. Patrick's Day party at the home of Al and Elsie Diemand, starting with a Finnish Pancake luncheon at noon. Members should wear something green.

Bill and Jane Mehr, Proprietors

The Cupola Restaurant

Hours:
Daily-11:30am-9pm
Fri. & Sat.-11:30am-10pm
Sundays-9pm-9pm
Closed Tuesdays

29 West Main St.
Orange, Ma.
544-2526

Thayer's "Family" Celebrates

If it can be said that Wendell has a favorite son , that title would probably best be given to Harry Thayer, who adopted and took as his family this town and its people.

As an expression of love returned, some of Harry's Wendell "family" joined with him Monday, Feb. 11 at the Franklin Nursing Home to celebrate the occassion of his birthday. (According to Harry, it was his 88th birthday, not his 90th.)

Twas a day for the joy of partying. In the afternoon the Golden Agers appeared in full force with cake and punch and lots of presents to sing and visit. The evening brought the Wendell Rangers, who, complete with tap dancer, played their own inimitable style of down-home country music to the appreciative crowd. Harry kept time tapping his foot and cheered. As the cake and punch, courtesy of Al and Elsie Diemand, was shared, a lot of Harry's friends who live at the home spoke of their respect and regard for Harry.

From The Office of The Town Clerk

REMINDER

New Appointees must be sworn in at the Office of Town Clerk to render the appointment official. Those who have not yet been sworn in will not appear as a town official on any town records. Please make an appointment with Clerk Anny Hartjens - 544-6052.

Vital Statistics

Marriages

Craig Meadows & Pamela J. Arnold on May 28th. Residence- Locks Hill Rd.

William P. Carlson & Nancy A. Wilson on Feb. 17,1979. Residence - Wickett Pond Rd.

David H. White & Anne M. Diemand on June 21. Residence - Farley Rd.

Ervin Fisher & Carol Ann Zak Pistone on June 23. Residence - Lockes Village Rd.

Steven N. Gross & Diane Pine Kurinsky on June 24. Residence - Lockes Village Rd.

Wayne J. Douglas & Lorie J. Sweeney on July 28. Residence - New Salem Rd.

Dana E. Dodge & Theresa A. Depratti on July 28. Residence - Farley Rd.

Frederick R. Bardsley 3rd & June C. Warrington on Dec. 21. Residence - Hawaii.

Featuring Spring Kites!

pandas

Mexican wool sweaters
wall hangings - rugs
pottery

413-584-3958
10a Main St. Northampton

Births

Angela Marie Thompson, daughter of Wilfred E. & Ann M. Isles Thompson. Born on July 9,1979 at 7:32 pm at the Franklin County Public Hospital.

Jon Robert Bowers, son of Robert F. & Marcia F. Wessel Bowers. Born on July 24, 1979 at 4:58 am at the Franklin Public Hospital

David Nelson Putnam, son of Haldiman S. Putnam III & Judith N. Goff Putnam. Born on Sept. 29,1979 at 4:58 pm at the Franklin County Public Hospital

Jesse Robert Mangan, son of Thomas F. Mangan Jr. & Jean S. Forward. Born on Dec. 3,1979 at 5:25 am at the Cooley-Dickinson hospital

Nathan Edward Boland, son of Edward D. Boland & Helen Ortins Boland . Born on Nov. 24,1979 at 9:42 pm at the Cooly-Dickinson Hospital

Land Transfers

10-31-79 Alfred B. Miller to Alfred B.& Raylene L. Miller. New Salem Rd. 3 1/2 acres.

12-7-79 James M. Killay to Donna Rae Killay. Eastern part of Wendell 74 acres.

12-11-79 Walter Jones to Christopher Piner. Montague Rd. 2.303 acres and residence.

12-14-79 Abraham Sherman to Richard Weiss Chestnut Hill area of Wendell. 37.2 acres.

12-14-79 Xavier L. LaPolice & Therese LaPolice to Myron & Kathy Becker Lockes Hill Rd. 3.75 acres and residence.

12-21-79 Ralph K. Barnes to Donna L. Barnes. Lockes Hill Rd. 28 acres & buildings.

12-28-79 David C. & Betty Hackmann to Richard M. & Mary Jane Ferguson. Northwest side Jennison Rd. 13.943 acres.

1-16-80 Mohawk Bank & Trust Co. of Greenfield to Raymond L. Mariani Wendell Depot Rd.

1-18-80 Donna L. Killay to James M. Killay, Jr. Eastern part of Wendell. 74 acres.

Selectmen's Minutes

Wendell Town Hall
December 18, 1979

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman, Ted Lewis, with the full board present. The weekly warrant was signed. Signed dog warrant. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. for Special Town Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Dolores I Williston,
Assistant Clerk

January 15, 1980

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman, Ted Lewis, with the full Board present. The warrant was signed. J. Moynahan informed the Board that the Free Cash will be re-certified at $101,000.00. Jay also discussed the County Budget with the Board. Jay said that he is trying to get a student interr to review the budgets and make recommendations.

Voted: The following pay policy for the Highway Dept.
Regular work week Sunday thru Saturday.
Regular Employees - Time and a half after 40 hours in a work week. Regular pay on Sundays.

Part-Time Employees - Time and a half after 40 hours in a work week. Regular pay on Sundays. Time and a half on Christmas and New Years Day.

Worked on Budget sheets for FY 1981.
Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Harry S, Williston III,
Clerk

February 5, 1980

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman, Ted Lewis, with the full Board present. The weekly payroll and bill warrant was signed by Selectman Lewis and Wilder. The minutes of the Dec. 18th and Jan. 15th meetings were approved by all.

The Board questioned Dog Officer, Thomas Bardsley, about the expenditure of $150. for wire, fence posts and gates. Tom informed the Board that this material is secure at his house and also that he was unable to purchase portable kennels for the $200. that was voted at the Annual Town Meeting. The Board asked Tom not to spend any additional sums for houses, etc. without talking to the Board first.

The Board and Highway Surveyor agreed to make a joint inspection of all Town Roads on Sunday February 24th at 9:00 a.m All parties involved will meet at David Wilders. Ken Simos informed the Highway Surveyor that he feels that there has been a breakdown in communications between the Selectmen and Road Department and that until these lines are repaired and strenghthened he will not work to strenghthen the Highway Department or work for such things as a new garage, equipment, etc.

Ken had to leave at this point to attend an OEDP meeting in Orange.

The Board met with School Committee Member, Janet DuCharme, to discuss her need for and classicifation as a "Special Municipal Employee" under the terms and provisions of MGLA Ch. 268A. Ted Lewis and David Wilder signed the appointment. Ken Simos said that he agreed with it before he left. The Board discussed in great detail this appointment with Mrs. DuCharme.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

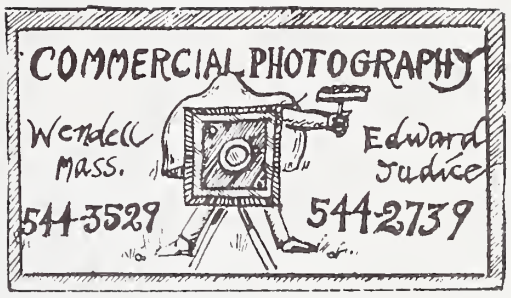
Respectfully submitted,
Harry S. Williston III,
Clerk

February 12th. Ted Lewis reported that Thomas Sogard had been appointed to fill the vacancy on the Finance Committee.

The Library was given permission to use the Town Hall for family type movies on the following dates:
April 18th, May 16th, June 27th, July 11th, July 18th, July 25th, August 1st, and August 8th. All shows should begin at 7:00 p.m.

Police Log

12-8-79	5 gunshots at microwave tower around midnight.
12-14-79	One car accident, New Salem Road, no injuries.
1-30-80	Broken window at Worth's Camp on West St.
2-9-80	Reported window broken at Allyn Dorr's on Wendell Depot Rd.
2-9-80	Joe Diemand reported one bus dealers plate missing, #1250-2A, missing and possibly stolen.



Fire Log

12-17-79 9:10 pm Smoke investigation at Bardsley's residence on Wendell Depot Rd.

12-20-79 6:55 pm Chimney fire at Wing's residence.

12-26-79 11:20 am One illegal burning at Bourbeau's residence on Bear Mt. Rd. Ext. to Erving.

12-29-79 7:15 pm Chimney fire at Connolly residence on Farley Rd.

1-7-80 7:55 am House fire at Steve Freeland's residence (John Sullivan - owner) on Montague and Wendell Depot Rd.

1-12-80 8:55 pm Chimney fire at Drohen residence on Wendell Depot Rd.

1-20-80 7:50 pm Chimney fire at Longley and Gilcrest residence (Irene Rush - owner) on West Rd.

1-20-80 10:08 pm Chimney fire at Houghton residence on Jennison Rd.

2-4-80 12:00 pm Auto fire at Mormon Hollow Auto Yard (Joseph Diemand - owner) on Mormon Hollow Rd.

2-8-80 1:35 am Three piles smoldering brush on Locke Hill Rd.

2-8-80 2:05 am Smoke investigation at Kutsch residence (David Bardsley - owner) on Wendell Depot Rd.

2-12-80 2:50 pm Mutual Aid to Orange. Barn and brush fire on Shingle Swamp Rd.

2-13-80 2:40 pm First Aid to McAvoy's residence on Lockes Village Rd.

Joseph A. Diemand
D-B-A
MORMON HOLLOW AUTO
TOWING WITH ALL WHEELS OFF ROAD
24 HOUR
TWO WAY RADIO EQUIPPED
CUSTOM TOWING
544-8502
IF NO ANSWER 544-6670
MORMON HOLLOW RD. - WENDELL

MDC From Page 5

construction nor upon interruption of natural systems and which together may meet present demand and even allow for a margin of expansion.

The first of these is conservation. Raytheon, for example, is building a new plant which provides for the virtual recycling of all water used within the plant. Another approach is legislation requiring water saving plumbing fixtures in all new and renovated buildings. Much depends upon local, voluntary effort to sustain a conservation program; local ordinance, however, can limit water usage to certain times, and can forbid certain usages which are non-essential.

Perhaps as much as 20% of the water reaching the metropolitan consumer is wasted. A staff member of the Special Legislative Commission on Water Supply gave the Wendell Post the following example of monitoring problems in this enormous system.

A playing field in South Boston was always soggy, but unreported until visited by a soccer-playing conservationist last year. The Boston Water and Sewer Commission was called, and found an uncapped 4" pipe which had been pouring out 500,000 gpm since the building it served had been torn down years before.

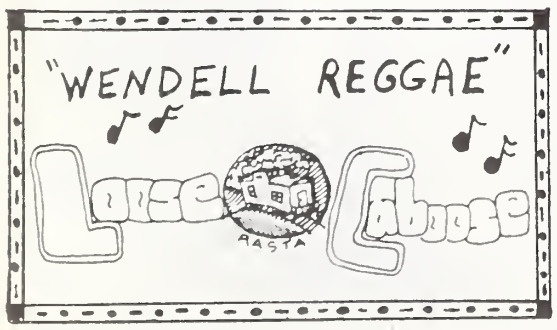
Professor Oswald Farquhar, a University of Massachusetts geology professor thinks the problem of unexplained water loss can be differently described. "I doubt", he told the Post, "that the waste through leakage is of the proportions suggested. The problem is probably in considerable measure one of inadequate metering".

If Professor Farquhar is correct, some of the positions staked out by opponents of the Northfield Diversion Project are seriously threatened, because they rest upon the assumption that the Connecticut is safe once"Boston cleans up its leaky act". As a matter of fact, Boston is doing just that, and is measureably reducing per capita consumption of water.

Proper management of watershed can reduce water loss through evaporation enormously. Cutting about 10% of Quabbine forest will result in savings equivalent to the loss from unavoidable surface evaporation.

The combination of conservation, monitoring and repair of delivery systems and watershed management may make interbasin transfers unnecessary.

Then the Wendell rock pile won't be built. The nesting site of 60 great blue heron would not be destroyed. The bobcat would remain an occasional visitor to this unusual upland bog.



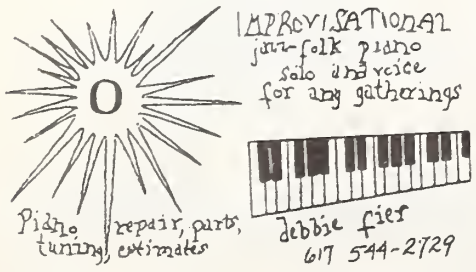


photo by Manop Boonyavatana

Memories & Fantasies Lost ~ In Major House Fire

Early Jan.7th at 7:55 a.m. the Wendell Fire Department received and responded to a call to the intersection of Montague and Wendell Depot Rd. On that blustery and overcast day the Old Fisher Place, also known as the Outer Space House, the big white house in the center of town which had graced the common for so many years, burned and became an unsightly skeleton. The house was fully involved in fire when the Dept. arrived at 8:02a.m. with fire coming out of the eaves and windows. A mutual aid call went out to surrounding towns, with 11 towns responding. Firefighters were hampered by wind conditions and poor water supply. The fire was under control by 11:30, and extinguished by 2:00. The barn remained unscathed.

Cause of the blaze has been determined to be faulty wiring and subsequent partition fire.

Several townspeople contributed their help in the time before the full Dept. had arrived. The firefighters wish to thank them for their timely efforts.

The Salvation Army was on the scene with coffee and donuts, which was well appreciated by the fire-fighters.

Lou on the Loose

Hello from Lou to you! That lovely blanket of snow stands little chance of throwing a blanket over Wendell's musical momentum this winter. On the contrary, the mild temps and clear roads have served to stimulate our merry melodians and contribute to their continued musical inertia and some exciting new energies...It's one for the money, two for the show, and Doug Huntington's new band Three to Get Ready is ready to go. Doug sang and played harp, percussion, and sax with Magic Music but he's now the killer behind the drum set. Watch for them soon...Three to Get Ready recorded their first tape at Jeffrey Bauman's Wendell Studio, now in the process of preparing the studio for a variety of prospective sessions...Some members of Outerspace rumored to be close to record deals in the Big Apple. Will we see them around here this Spring?..John "Chubby" Moses of O-Space is now the featured guitarist in the Broadway musical Oh Calcutta...Pat Jones currently on-the-road out of NYC as guitarist with the musical Jesus Christ Superstar...Tom and Shane Devine, having just produced a dance in Orange, are quietly working toward securing the interest of a big-time producer...Tom and Shane will be opening at a special Winter Time Party at the Town Hall sponsored and headlined by the renewed Wendell Rangers. The date(mark that calendar now) is Sat. March 15th. The Rangers' Myron Becker, still high (and understandably so) from his personal lesson and visit with blues legend Sonny Terry, appears to be the prime mover behind the party and says the Rangers are ready!..Wendell pianist Debby Fier's Feb. 4th date at the Iron Horse in Northampton was a great success...Loose Caboose, busy rehearsing their new sound, make their next local appearance Sat. March 1st at the "new" Noble Feast, now a much larger but still cozy music room in Turners Falls. The Loose ones have received strong preliminary interest from Tuff Gong of Jamaica, reggae star Bob Marley's own record label and hope to travel there to record in late Spring...Klondike Sound, working in and around Wendell this winter adds Brattleboro's Flat St. Concerts to his Caboose, WSLE-FM, and Maine concert sound schedule. Did Lou forget anyone? Until next time.

Lou Caboose

RURAL ARTS PROGRAM

In March the New Salem/Wendell Rural Arts Program, with the help of a matching grant from the Massachusetts Council for the Arts and Humanities, will be offering adult evening classes and a selection of mini-courses at the Swift River School. The courses to be offered are as follows:

1. Basic Stained Glass - Mondays 7-9
   Madeline Fox $21 plus $15 materials.
2. Creative Ceramics - Tuesdays, 7-9
   Linda Beaudoin $21 plus $10 materials
3. House Portraits - Learn basic Appliqué and quilting techniques by making a fabric portrait of your home or favorite place. Mary Merrian
   Tuesdays, 7-9 $21.
4. Basic Photography - Tuesdays, 7-9
   Bruce Butler $21.
5. Exercise to Music - Thursdays, 7-9
   Daria Nielson $21.

Mini-Courses

1. Frame Restoration - March 19, 20, 7-9
   Madeline Fox $10
2. Natural Wool Dying - April 10, 7-9
   Ellie Voutselas $6.
3. Kite Making - March 27, 7-9
   Ted Voutselas $6.
4. Basic Herbs - April 9, 7-9
   Connie Lewis $6.

For more information please contact Pat Judice at 544-3529.